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Illinois Department of Public Aid

MONTHLY REPORT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN ILLINOIS
February 1982

The February total of 1,043,600 recipients of public assistance in Illinois was a slight 361 persons fewer than a month earlier. Cases rose 2,209 in that interim, to a 524,502 total. The discrepancy reflected the fact that Chicago's General Assistance program, largely one-person cases, was sharply higher again, while declines characterized two multi-person programs, Aid to Families With Dependent Children and the AFDC-extended medical segment of Medical Assistance. Expenditures for all programs totalled $204,119,800 in February, including $88,228,700 in grants and $115,891,100 paid to medical vendors.

The above totals include AFDC, State Supplemental Payments to the aged, blind, or disabled, the Medical Assistance-No Grant program, Aid to the Medically Indigent, and General Assistance in Chicago, all of which receive State funds. Excluded were downstate GA receiving units, all GA nonreceiving units, and federally-funded programs reported in the body of the report, i.e., the Refugee Resettlement, Cuban Phasedown, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, and Food Stamp programs.

AFDC Pattern Mixed. A month-to-month drop of 721 persons netted 713,118 persons in 227,092 AFDC-combined cases this February. Payments of $105,929,100 comprised $69,965,400 in grants, averaging $308.09 per family and $98.11 per family member, and $35,963,700 spent for medical care. These averages should be interpreted in light of the fact that approximately one percent of all AFDC families were in "0" grant status this month. Families in which the youngest child was in the 18 to 20, inclusive, age group, not in high school, and therefore eligible for medical care only, comprised the majority of "0" grant cases. A second group, about half the size of the first, consisted of cases eligible for payments of less than $10. Another three percent of the current caseload included families with children still eligible for grants but with at least one child per family in the 18-20 age group and therefore eligible for medical care only. These reductions in grant recipients among cases categorically eligible for maintenance needs began in October 1981.

The AFDC-basic sector fell 3,341 persons in February, its fifth straight month of decline, to a total of 649,459 persons in 212,042 cases; cases dropped 882 between the two months. In contrast, the unemployed parent sector rose 2,620 persons, to 63,659 persons in 15,050 cases; cases increased 671. The AFDC-U case count was 5,374 in November 1979, its "low" prior to the current uptrend.

SSP Falls Again. Recipients of State Supplemental Payments numbered 30,795 currently, off 269 from the January total. The latest number included 6,139 aged, 302 blind, and 24,354 disabled persons. SSP payments of $2,862,200 were $92.94 per recipient. An additional $7,042,000 of medical payments on behalf of these and 1,170 aged, blind, or disabled "0" grant persons averaged $220.30 per eligible person.

(over)

Medical-Only Program Lower. A slowing this month among closings of AFDC grant cases due to receipt of employment lowered both the AFDC-extended medical eligibility list and the Medical Assistance--No Grant program as a whole. The overall program dropped 2,409 persons between January and February, to a total of 191,499 persons in 167,598 cases. The AFDC-extended medical care segment, alone, fell 4,331 persons, to 13,174 in 4,078 eligible cases. Medical payments on behalf of these cases were reported under the AFDC grant program.

Aged, blind, or disabled persons categorically eligible for medical only (AABD-MANG) numbered 138,651 in February, up 1,132 from the previous month. Expenditures on their behalf amounted to $52,695,400, or 380.06 per eligible person. Persons in families categorically eligible for medical only also increased, by 842, to 27,008 persons in 12,203 families. Expenditures of $3,324,200 averaged $272.41 per eligible family. The 11,496 foster care children currently eligible for medical care only represented a monthly rise of 8. Payments of $555,200 averaged $48.30 per eligible child. Aged, blind, or disabled persons in "0" grant status dropped 60 between the two months, to a 1,170 total. Medical reimbursements on their behalf were inseparable from those for SSP cases.

New AMI Peak. February payments under the Aid to the Medically Indigent program were made on behalf of 6,847 cases representing 9,044 persons, an increase of 408 persons from the month before. Both the case and person totals were new highs. This month's payments amounted to $4,476,800, or an average of $653.83 per case.

GA-Chicago Rise Extended. Another sharp monthly increase, this time of 2,630 persons, lifted Chicago's General Assistance recipient total to 99,144 in 92,170 cases this February. Earlier case counts indicate the magnitude of the program's longer-term uptrend: The most recent move began from a low of 58,745 cases in November 1979, preceded by a 30,115 count in April 1972 and an even lower 15,979 in July 1966. In the latest month, cases rose "across-the-board", by 368 in the Metro North Region, to 18,458; by 638 in Metro West, to 24,433; by 543 in Central, to 23,061; by 821 in Metro South, to 26,137; and by 2 in the city-wide group, to 81. Expenditures in February were $25,001,900, including $15,401,100 in grants, averaging $155.34 per capita, and $9,600,800 of medical payments.

Other GA Activity. State-funded General Assistance units downstate accounted for 11,211 recipients in 10,199 cases this January, an increase of 812 persons from a month earlier, and 3,484 persons, or 45.1 percent, more than the January 1981 total. This January's assistance amounted to $1,787,700, including $1,302,000 in grants and $485,700 of medical payments. The totals included some local as well as State funds. Another 18,722 persons in 9,100 cases were aided among GA nonreceiving units in January 1982. Payments were $1,114,200, comprising $887,300 in grants and $226,900 paid to medical vendors. All nonreceiving units data were partly estimated.

Refugee Resettlement. This program's grant component fell 31 persons between January and February, the first monthly drop since its July 1981 implementation, to a total of 9,501 persons in 3,202 cases. The medical-only component eased downward 6 persons, to 263 in 85 cases.

Cuban Phasedown and Cuban/Haitian Programs. An increase of 1 person, to 129 persons in 92 cases, characterized the grant component of the Cuban Phasedown Program in the January-February period. There were two one-person medical-only cases this month, the same as in January.

The Cuban/Haitian Program's grant component fell 66 persons in the latest month, to 1,571 persons in 1,276 cases. There have been no medical-only cases since last October.

Food Stamp Program. Food Stamp ATP Documents valued at $45,769,900 were distributed to households comprising approximately 1,060,980 persons in February. That estimate of persons benefiting from Food Stamps was 7,630 more than the January total and only 100 below the all-time peak of September 1981. A current-month total of 365,248 households representing 944,586 persons received ATP Documents through regular roll issuance, an increase of 9,515 persons from a month earlier. Their ATP Documents were worth $41,202,700, averaging $112.81 per household and $43.62 per household member. Locally-issued ATP documents valued at $4,567,200 averaged about $39,25 per capita among the estimated 116,390 persons receiving them.

Applications--All Programs. The total of 44,373 applications received for all programs in the latest month was down 1,103 from January, and only moderately below the all-time peak of 48,635 recorded in December. All data cited now include foster care medical-only applications. Grant program applications this month included 169 received on behalf of the aged, 10 for the blind, 2,012 for the disabled, 13,242 for AFDC, and 11,224 for GA in Chicago. The Medical Assistance--No Grant total received was 11,283, and Aid to the Medically Indigent, 6,433.

GA-Chicago application receipts have been artifically high in most of 1981 and thus far in 1982 due to the requirement that reinstated cases must now be registered under their previous basic number, and, if employable, then assigned a number with an "M" or "W" prefix. The additional applications averaged 325 monthly in the February-September 1981 period, totalled 891 in October, 1,748 in November, 1,929 in December, 1,526 in January 1982, and 1,331 this February.

AFDC Applications. Applications received for AFDC assistance numbered 13,242 in February, including 9,653 for the basic sector and 3,589 received for the unemployed sector; the combined total was down 653 from a month earlier. Among applications processed in February, 40.5 percent were denied, 35.8 percent of basic sector activity and 53 percent of those for AFDC-U. Applications pending rose from 8,610 at the end of January to 8,734 as of February 28.

(over)

AFDC Openings and Closings. "Living below agency standards" was responsible for 28.3 percent of the 7,673 case openings during February for which reasons were available. Other reasons included loss of employment, 23.3 percent; parent left home, 14.5; loss of unemployment benefits, 14.1; and miscellaneous, 19.8 percent.

Among the 7,805 closings analyzed this month, receipt of employment or increased budgeted earnings was credited with 16.5 percent; whereabouts unknown, 11.6; and noncooperation with redetermination requirements, 11.1 percent. Budgeted earned income increase--case no longer eligible for earned income exemption, a new reason reflecting the end of four months of allowable earned income exemption, accounted for 10.2 percent. Reasons for closing with lesser impact included loss of legal residence, 8.8 percent; requested cancellation, 8.4; lack of an eligible child, 6.3; income received from State or local government, 6.2; step-parent's liability sufficient for needs of step-child, 3.0; refusal of earned income verification, 2.9; income exceeds 150% of standard, 1.7; step-parent failed to verify income, 1.1; and all other, 12.2 percent.

The attached table details reasons for AFDC openings and closings, by sector, for this month, last month, and the final quarter (monthly average) of 1981. Line charts of AFDC and GA-Chicago caseload trends since July 1966 are also included.

Prepared by:

Bureau of Research and Analysis

March 23, 1982

JK:sf 0044R

Illinois Department of Public Aid
PROGRAMS RECEIVING STATE FUNDS
NUMBER OF CASES, PERSONS, AND AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
(Excludes Downstate General Assistance Receiving Units)
February 1982

PROGRAM	NO OF CASES	PERSONS NUMBER	PERSONS Change From A Month Ago	PERSONS Change From A Year Ago Number	PERSONS Change From A Year Ago %	ASSISTANCE Total	ASSISTANCE Grant Payments Amount	ASSISTANCE Grant Payments Aver. Per Person	ASSISTANCE Medical Payments
				TOTAL STATE					
TOTAL a/	524,502	1,043,600	-361	+30,276	+ 3.0	$201,886,800 b/	$88,228,700 b/	$ --	$113,658,100 b/
Categorical Grant Cases	257,887	743,913	-990	+13,124	+ 1.8	115,833,300	72,827,600	97.90	43,005,700
State Supplemental Cases	30,795	30,795	- 269	- 1,123	- 3.5	9,904,200	2,862,200	92.94	7,042,000 c/
Aged	6,139	6,139	- 34	- 14	- 0.2	1,153,500	411,700	67.06	741,800 c/
Blind	302	302	- 6	- 38	-11.2	92,100	24,100	79.80	68,000 c/
Disabled	24,354	24,354	- 229	- 1,071	- 4.2	8,658,600	2,426,400	99.63	6,232,200 c/
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	227,092	713,118	- 721	+ 14,247	+ 2.0	105,929,100	69,965,400	98.11	35,963,700
AFDC - Basic	212,042	649,459	-3,341	- 6,990	- 1.1	97,076,400	64,112,200	98.72	32,964,200
AFDC - Unemployed	15,050	63,659	+2,620	+ 21,237	+50.1	8,852,700	5,853,200	91.95	2,999,500
Medical Assistance-No Grant	167,598	191,499	-2,409	- 6,058	- 3.1	56,574,800	-- --	--	56,574,800
Medical Only	150,854	165,659	+1,974	- 8,119	- 4.7	56,019,600	-- --	--	56,019,600
"0" Grant	1,170	1,170	- 60	- 280	-19.3	-- --	-- --	--	-- --
AFDC Extended Med. d/	4,078	13,174	-4,331	+ 2,437	+22.7	-- --	-- --	--	-- --
Foster Care e/	11,496	11,496	+ 8	- 96	- 0.8	555,200	-- --	--	555,200
General Assistance f/ City of Chicago	92,170	99,144	+2,630	+ 20,284	+25.7	25,001,900	15,401,100	155.34	9,600,800
Aid to the Med. Ind.	6,847	9,044	+ 408	+ 2,926	+47.8	4,476,800	-- --	--	4,476,800
Other Programs (Not included in Above Totals):									
Burial	--	--	--	--	--	316,500	316,500	--	-- --
Food Stamps - ATP Reg. Roll g/	365,248	944,586	+9,515	+40,070	+ 4.4	41,202,700	41,202,700	43.62	-- --

a/ Includes the following: aged, blind, and disabled cases for which State Supplemental was paid this month; cases in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program for which maintenance grants were paid; aged, blind, and disabled "0" grant cases, persons categorically eligible for medical care only, AFDC-extended medical care cases, and foster care children under the Medical Assistance--No Grant program; the Aid to the Medically Indigent program; and recipients of General Assistance in Chicago. Data for GA receiving units downstate not available.

b/ Excludes expenditures in GA receiving units downstate; these totaled $1,787,800 in January.

c/ Medical payments on behalf of 1,170 "0" grant cases, 314 aged, 20 blind, and 836 disabled, are included; however, case and person totals for these "0" grant cases are included under the Medical Assistance--No Grant program, and not under Categorical Grant Cases.

d/ Medical payments for these cases are included in the total shown for the AFDC grant program.

e/ Amounts shown were paid by this Department for medical care of children in programs under the Department of Children and Family Services.

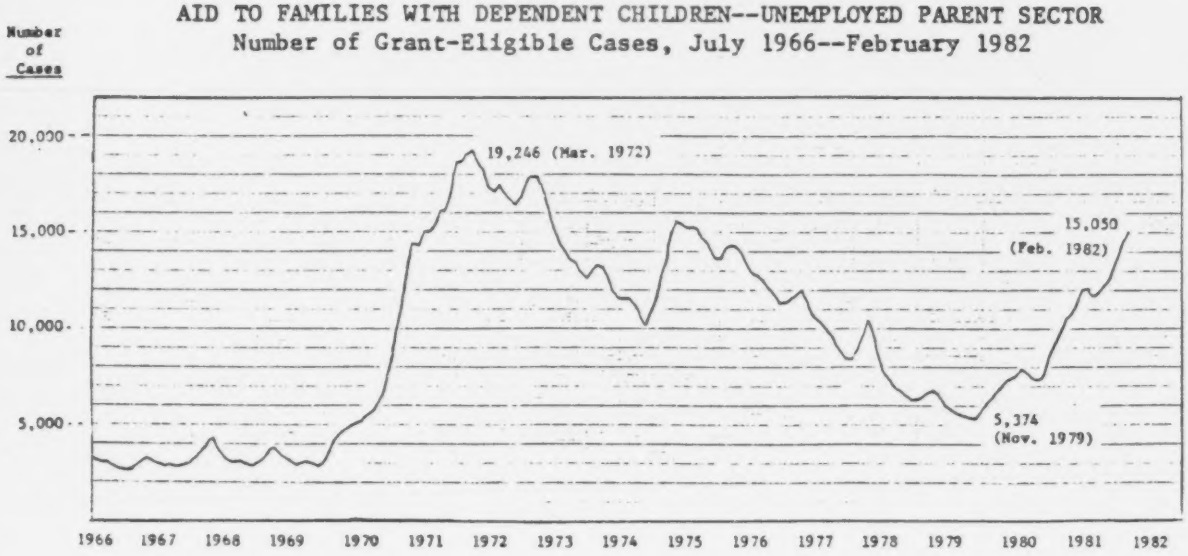
f/ General Assistance caseloads in units receiving state funds available for the City of Chicago only. Suburban Cook County units do not receive State GA funds. Persons in GA receiving units downstate numbered 11,211 in January.

g/ Federal Food Stamp Program administered by this Department. No State funds are included in Food Stamp dollar amount. "Cases" refer to households.

NOTE: An additional $2,233,000 was spent under Medical Assistance for such things as hospital reconciliation, medical transportation, etc.

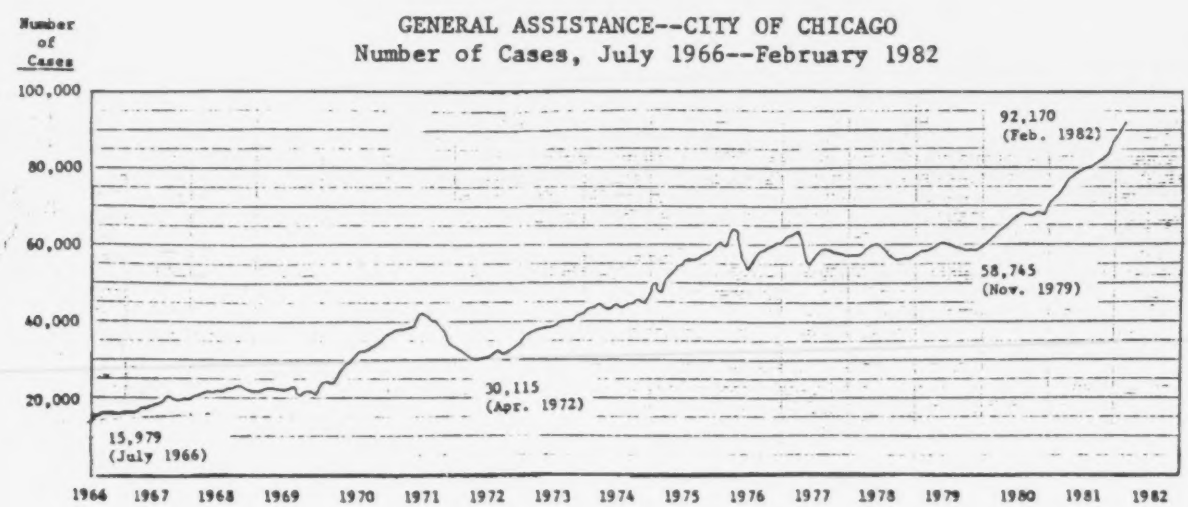
Illinois Department of Public Aid

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN--UNEMPLOYED PARENT SECTOR
Number of Grant-Eligible Cases, July 1966--February 1982



Illinois Department of Public Aid

GENERAL ASSISTANCE--CITY OF CHICAGO
Number of Cases, July 1966--February 1982



Illinois Department of Public Aid
Programs Receiving State Funds
Total State, Cook and Downstate
Cases, Persons, and Assistance Paid -- January 1982

PROGRAM	NO. OF CASES	NO. OF PERSONS	Change In Persons From A Month Ago	Change In Persons From A Year Ago Number	Change In Persons From A Year Ago %	ASSISTANCE Total	ASSISTANCE Grants	ASSISTANCE Medical Payments
			T O T A L S T A T E					
TOTAL	532,492	1,055,172	+ 2,448	+ 38,657	+ 3.8	$203,614,174	$89,129,889	$114,484,285
State Supplemental	31,064	31,064	- 388	- 1,372	- 4.2	10,437,857	2,907,201	7,530,656[a]
Aged	6,173	6,173	- 29	- 35	- 0.6	1,035,086	414,250	620,836[a]
Blind	308	308	- 6	- 36	- 10.5	84,919	24,428	60,491[a]
Disabled	24,583	24,583	- 353	- 1,301	- 5.0	9,317,852	2,468,523	6,849,329[a]
AFDC-Combined	227,303	713,839	+ 2,546	+ 21,367	+ 3.1	111,937,857	69,823,225	42,114,632
Basic Sector	212,924	652,800	- 717	+ 126	--	103,225,683	64,177,620	39,048,063
Unemployed	14,379	61,039	+ 3,263	+ 21,241	+ 53.4	8,712,174	5,645,605	3,066,569
Medical Assistance	167,627	193,908	- 2,717	- 6,480	- 3.2	49,799,063	--	49,799,063
"Medical Only"	149,511	163,685	- 1,649	- 11,571	- 6.6	49,103,279	--	49,103,279
"O" Grant	1,230	1,230	- 81	- 318	- 20.5	--	--	--
AFDC-Ext. Med. [b]	5,398	17,505	- 998	+ 5,495	+ 45.8	--	--	--
Foster Care [c]	11,488	11,488	+ 11	- 86	- 0.7	695,784	--	695,784
GA Receiving Units	99,997	107,725	+ 3,182	+ 22,608	+ 26.6	27,107,364	16,399,463	10,707,901
Aid to Med. Indigent	6,501	8,636	- 175	+ 2,534	+ 41.5	4,332,033	--	4,332,033
			C O O K C O U N T Y					
TOTAL	359,853	714,136	- 498	+ 14,748	+ 2.1	$147,463,989	$65,291,164	$ 82,172,825
State Supplemental	24,520	24,520	- 305	- 1,520	- 5.8	8,350,350	2,082,922	6,267,428[a]
Aged	4,994	4,994	- 24	- 30	- 0.6	831,531	310,166	521,365[a]
Blind	239	239	- 4	- 22	- 8.4	73,144	17,888	55,256[a]
Disabled	19,287	19,287	- 277	- 1,468	- 7.1	7,445,675	1,754,868	5,690,807[a]
AFDC-Combined	153,876	486,752	- 330	+ 5,478	+ 1.1	82,567,125	48,110,791	34,456,334
Basic Sector	148,297	461,845	- 1,069	- 999	- 0.2	78,772,398	45,783,089	32,989,309
Unemployed	5,579	24,907	+ 739	+ 6,477	+ 35.1	3,794,727	2,327,702	1,467,025
Medical Assistance	90,057	103,856	- 1,946	- 8,599	- 7.6	28,470,367	--	28,470,367
"Medical Only"	74,659	81,825	- 1,532	- 10,785	- 11.6	27,774,583	--	27,774,583
"O" Grant	1,040	1,040	- 50	- 269	- 20.6	--	--	--
AFDC-Ext. Med. [b]	2,870	9,503	- 375	+ 2,541	+ 36.5	--	--	--
Foster Care [c]	11,488	11,488	+ 11	- 86	- 0.7	695,784	--	695,784
GA Receiving Units	89,798	96,514	+ 2,370	+ 19,124	+ 24.7	25,319,608	15,097,451	10,222,157
Aid to Med. Indigent	1,602	2,494	- 287	+ 265	+ 11.9	2,756,539	--	2,756,539

(OVER)

Programs Receiving State Funds -- January 1982

PROGRAM	NO. OF CASES	NO. OF PERSONS	Change In Persons From A Month Ago	Change In Persons From A Year Ago Number	Change In Persons From A Year Ago %	ASSISTANCE Total	ASSISTANCE Grants	ASSISTANCE Medical Payments
			D O W N S T A T E					
TOTAL	172,639	341,036	+ 2,946	+ 23,909	+ 7.5	$ 56,150,185	$23,838,725	$ 32,311,460
State Supplemental	6,544	6,544	- 83	+ 148	+ 2.3	2,087,507	824,279	1,263,228[a/]
Aged 1,179	1,179	1,179	- 5	- 5	- 0.4	203,555	104,084	99,471[a/]
Blind	69	69	- 2	- 14	- 16.9	11,775	6,540	5,235[a/]
Disabled	5,296	5,296	- 76	+ 167	+ 3.3	1,872,177	713,655	1,158,522[a/]
AFDC-Combined	73,427	227,087	+ 2,876	+ 15,889	+ 7.5	29,370,732	21,712,434	7,658,298
Basic Sector	64,627	190,955	+ 352	+ 1,125	+ 0.6	24,453,285	18,394,531	6,058,754
Unemployed	8,800	36,132	+ 2,524	+ 14,764	+ 69.1	4,917,447	3,317,903	1,599,544
Medical Assistance	77,570	90,052	- 771	+ 2,119	+ 2.4	21,328,696	--	21,328,696
"Medical Only"	74,852	81,860	- 117	- 786	- 1.0	21,328,696	--	21,328,696
"0" Grant	190	190	- 31	- 49	- 20.5	--	--	--
AFDC-Ext. Med. [b/]	2,528	8,002	- 623	+ 2,954	+ 58.5	--	--	--
GA Receiving Units	10,199	11,211	+ 812	+ 3,484	+ 45.1	1,787,756	1,302,012	485,744
Aid to Med. Indigent	4,899	6,142	+ 112	+ 2,269	+ 58.6	1,575,494	--	1,575,494
* * *

Illinois Department of Public Aid
Programs Receiving State Funds
Number of Persons and Amount of Assistance

January, 1982

County	PERSONS Number a/ (a)	PERSONS Rate per 1,000 Total Population b/ (b)	Amount of Assistance c/ (c)
TOTAL STATE	1,055,172	92	$203,614,174
COOK COUNTY	714,136	136	147,463,989
DOWNSTATE	341,036	55	56,150,185
Adams	4,358	61	748,427
Alexander	3,036	248	339,553
Bond	928	57	177,611
Boone	832	29	151,867
Brown	257	47	22,125
Bureau	1,287	33	284,125
Calhoun	257	44	39,465
Carroll	711	38	102,760
Cass	769	51	138,210
Champaign	7,482	44	1,411,248
Christian	2,156	59	341,961
Clark	525	31	88,114
Clay	757	50	166,209
Clinton	1,263	39	204,335
Coles	2,267	43	544,135
Crawford	570	27	118,110
Cumberland	345	31	48,340
DeKalb	1,780	24	307,061
DeWitt	592	33	118,933
Douglas	840	42	238,325
DuPage	10,597	16	2,289,541
Edgar	855	39	145,901
Edwards	312	39	55,695
Effingham	1,426	46	268,495
Fayette	1,332	60	$244,390
Ford	600	39	132,031
Franklin	4,009	93	593,644
Fulton	2,630	60	492,148
Gallatin	770	101	147,061
Greene	1,262	76	182,956
Grundy	809	26	127,439
Hamilton	700	76	120,405
Hancock	875	37	169,325
Hardin	722	134	117,792
Henderson	329	36	36,275
Henry	2,276	39	465,646
Iroquois	1,402	43	292,807
Jackson	3,852	63	739,725
Jasper	322	28	59,722
Jefferson	3,228	89	446,336
Jersey	754	37	118,600
Jo Daviess	339	14	52,002
Johnson	747	78	109,632
Kane	12,460	45	2,079,393
Kankakee	11,515	112	1,860,849
Kendall	478	13	113,024
Knox	4,248	69	856,782
Lake	17,005	39	3,342,032
LaSalle	5,072	46	947,993
Lawrence	1,019	57	240,546
Lee	2,321	64	393,142
Livingston	1,390	34	254,160
Logan	2,172	68	341,466

(over)

Persons and Assistance by County -- January 1982

County	(a)	(b)	(c)	County	(a)	(b)	(c)
Macon	10,275	78	$1,683,273	Randolph	1,410	40	$241,224
Macoupin	2,907	59	492,377	Richland	675	38	147,075
Madison	19,826	80	4,322,330	Rock Island	9,593	58	1,448,434
Marion	3,390	78	651,714	Saline	2,688	98	534,003
Marshall	389	27	76,330	Sangamon	12,611	72	2,010,322
Mason	1,408	72	177,433	Schuyler	358	43	63,697
Massac	1,731	115	242,400	Scott	221	36	41,104
McDonough	1,363	37	301,162	Shelby	1,049	44	159,082
McHenry	2,281	15	447,964	Stark	298	40	62,732
McLean	4,301	36	911,317	St. Clair	48,473	183	8,213,434
Menard	625	53	107,385	Stephenson	1,884	38	273,149
Mercer	781	40	89,948	Tazewell	5,200	39	1,008,083
Monroe	567	28	139,222	Union	1,970	117	383,652
Montgomery	1,933	61	383,968	Vermilion	6,223	65	998,162
Morgan	2,743	73	379,500	Wabash	675	49	143,315
Moultrie	429	29	86,513	Warren	1,148	52	186,967
Ogle	1,385	30	201,500	Washington	569	37	168,329
Peoria	14,405	72	2,288,077	Wayne	879	49	141,634
Perry	1,244	57	194,305	White	1,319	74	295,371
Piatt	480	29	110,056	Whiteside	2,268	34	541,173
Pike	1,116	59	148,954	Will	16,165	50	2,793,662
Pope	405	92	38,047	Williamson	4,109	73	728,928
Pulaski	2,125	240	240,557	Winnebago	15,268	61	2,714,764
Putnam	68	11	14,011	Woodford	966	29	217,535

a/ Includes the following: aged, blind, and disabled persons for whom State Supplemental Payments were made this month or in "0" grant status, persons in AFDC families and those eligible for AFDC-extended medical care, persons categorically eligible for medical care only, foster care children carried on Cook County medical-only rolls, persons in General Assistance receiving units, and persons receiving Aid to the Medically Indigent.

b/ Rates based on total population on April 1, 1980, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

c/ Amounts of assistance paid for persons specified in a/ above. All foster care children and medical payments on their behalf are included in Cook County totals, regardless of county of residence. Mass debits and credits not allocable by county totalled-$83,594. Advanced payments for nursing home care not allocable by county totalled - $4,438,264 in January.

NOTE: An additional $24,304,000 was spent under medical assistance for such things as hospital reconciliation, medical transportation, etc.

Illinois Department of Public Aid

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (MAG)
Cases Opened, by Reason, January and February 1982
and Monthly Average, Oct. - Dec. 1981

Reason	February 1982	January 1982	Oct.-Dec. 1981 (Mo. Average)
	AFDC-Combined		
Total Openings	7,673	8,336	8,265
Living Below Agency Standards	2,175	2,438	2,211
Loss of Employment	1,786	1,883	1,774
Parent Left Home	1,113	1,176	1,351
Loss of UC Benefits	1,084	1,106	1,266
All Other	1,515	1,733	1,663
	AFDC-Basic Sector		
Total Openings	5,981	6,599	6,768
Living Below Agency Standards	1,894	2,133	1,968
Loss of Employment	995	1,094	1,151
Parent Left Home	1,096	1,162	1,334
Loss of UC Benefits	587	608	748
All Other	1,409	1,602	1,567
	AFDC-Umemployed Sector		
Total Openings	1,692	1,737	1,497
Living Below Agency Standards	281	305	243
Loss of Employment	791	789	623
Parent Left Home	17	14	17
Loss of UC Benefits	497	498	518
All Other	106	131	96

NOTE: Openings, above, and closings, shown on other page, are those for which data were available by reason each month. These tables do not afford net additions to, or deductions from, the rolls.

Illinois Department of Public Aid

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (MAG)
Cases Closed, by Reason, January and February 1982
and Monthly Average, Oct. - Dec. 1981

Reason	February 1982	January 1982	Oct.-Dec. 1981 (Mo. Average)
	AFDC-Combined		
Total Closings	7,805	7,306	10,804
Receipt of Employment or Increased Budgeted Earnings	1,287	1,502	2,352
Whereabouts Unknown	905	956	1,043
Noncooperation-Redetermination Req.	867	913	828
Income Increase-No Longer Eligible For Earned Income Exemption	793	--	--
Loss of Legal Residence	684	708	866
Requested Cancellation	658	686	888
No Eligible Child	490	481	1,530
Income From State or Local Gov't.	488	442	454
Step-Parent Liability Sufficient	234	315	841
Income Verification	89	107	451
Refusal of Earned Income Verif.	225	233	317
Income Excesses 150% of Standard	135	124	234
All Other	950	839	1,000
	AFDC-Basic Sector		
Total Closings	6,861	6,437	9,722
Receipt of Employment or Increased Budgeted Earnings	974	1,203	1,893
Whereabouts Unknown	846	893	967
Noncooperation-Redetermination Req.	802	831	760
Income Increase-No Longer Eligible For Earned Income Exemption	747	--	--
Loss of Legal Residence	636	652	809
Requested Cancellation	600	618	811
No Eligible Child	463	451	1,448
Income From State or Local Gov't.	327	294	341
Step-Parent Liability Sufficient	234	314	840
Income Verification	89	107	451
Refusal of Earned Income Verif.	197	210	286
Income Exceeds 150% of Standard	120	115	226
All Other	826	749	890

(over)

Reason	February 1982	January 1982	Oct.-Dec. 1981 (Mo. Average)
	AFDC-Unemployed Sector		
Total Closings	944	869	1,082
Receipt of Employment or Increased Budgeted Earnings	313	299	459
Whereabouts Unknown	59	63	76
Noncooperation-Redetermination Req.	65	82	68
Income Increase-No Longer Eligible For Earned Income Exemption	46	--	--
Loss of Legal Residence	48	56	57
Requested Cancellation	58	68	77
No Eligible Child	27	30	82
Income From State or Local Gov't.	161	148	113
Step-Parent Liability Sufficient	--	1	1
Income Verification	--	--	--
Refusal of Earned Income Verif.	28	23	31
Income Exceeds 150% of Standard	15	9	8
All Other	124	90	110

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID

MONTHLY REPORT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN ILLINOIS

MARCH 1982

The uptrend since December 1979 in Illinois' public assistance rolls, interrupted last fall by implementation of stricter eligibility requirements, was in evidence again this March. Persons aided through State-funded programs rose 8,297 between the last two months, to a peak of 1,051,897. That count was about 47,000 below the March 1976 number, when children per AFDC case averaged considerably higher than at present. Cases increased 5,508 in the latest month, to 530,010, a post-World War II record. Assistance payments amounting to $247,320,700 in March 1982 comprised $92,519,800 in grants and $154,800,900 spent for medical care.

These totals include the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, State Supplemental Payments to the aged, blind, or disabled, the Medical Assistance - No Grant program, Aid to the Medically Indigent, and General Assistance in Chicago, all of which receive State funds. Excluded were downstate GA receiving units, all GA non-receiving units, and the federally-funded programs commented upon in this narrative, i.e., the Refugee Resettlement, Cuban Phasedown, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, and Food Stamp programs.

AFDC Up Strongly. The AFDC recipient total advanced 4,393 between February and March, to 717,511 persons in 228,564 cases. Expenditures in the latest period were $107,980,200, including $71,320,200 in grants, averaging $312.04 per case or $99.40 per capita, and $36,660,000 spent for medical care. As discussed in last month's report, about one percent of the current caseload were "0" grant cases. Another three percent consisted of families with reduced grants, each with at least one child remaining in the grant and one or more additional children in the 18-20 age group who were not in school and therefore eligible for medical care only.

A five-month downtrend in the AFDC-basic sector, during which the number of grant persons fell 21,616, was halted by a February-March rebound of 1,044 persons, yielding 650,503. Cases rose 637 between the last two months, to 212,679. The unemployed sector advanced 3,349 persons in the same period, to 67,008; AFDC-U cases increased 835, to 15,885.

SSP in Rebound. Last month's low for recent years was followed by a current rise of 202 among one-person cases receiving State Supplement Payments, to a total of 30,997. These persons included 6,130 aged, 304 blind, and 24,563 disabled. SSP payments directed to them amounted to $2,975,100, or $95.98 per recipient. Medical bills paid on behalf of SSP and "0" grant persons, together, totalled $7,688,400, or $240.17 per eligible person.

Medical-Only Program Falls Again. In a duplication of the January-February decline, a slowing among closings of AFDC grant cases due to receipt of employment again lowered both the AFDC-extended medical eligibility list and the Medical Assistance--No Grant program, as a whole. A drop of 1,465 persons in the overall program between February and March netted 190,034 persons in 166,777 cases. The AFDC-extended medical segment, in particular, fell 2,064 persons, to 11,110 persons in 3,392 cases; expenditures for this segment were inseparable from those for the related grant program.

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The number of persons in families categorically eligible for medical care only (AFDC-MANG) rose 981 in the latest month, to 27,989 in 12,450 cases. Medical payments on their behalf were $3,820,800, or $306.89 per family on the rolls. Aged, blind, or disabled persons categorically eligible for medical only (AABD-MANG) increased 11, to 138,662; payments amounted to $63,178,300, or $455.63 per eligible individual. Foster care children in medical eligibility status numbered 11,258 in March, a decrease of 238 from February. Medical bills paid were $690,100 or $61.30 per child in the program. An all-time low of 1,015 aged, blind, or disabled persons in the "0" grant segment represented a decline of 155 from February. Medical expenditures for these cases were reported with those for the SSP program.

Record AMI Activity. Aid to the Medically Indigent payments were made on behalf of 7,282 cases representing 9,572 persons in March; that person total was 528 more than a month earlier, setting another high for the program. Current payments amounted to $6,091,600, or $836.53 per case.

GA-Chicago in Sharp Advance. The Chicago General Assistance program experienced its largest one-month increase in many years this March, of 4,639 persons, yielding a 103,783 total. Cases rose 4,220, to 96,390. The program has moved upward in 24 of the last 28 months, and declined, all minor reductions, in only 4 of those months. Regional increases over February 1982 included 625 cases in Metro North, 1,091 in Metro West, 903 in Central, and a very substantial 1,601 in Metro South; there was no net change in the small city-wide group. Assistance amounting to $28,993,200 included $18,224,500 in grants and $10,768,700 in medical payments. This month's per capita grant amount of $175.60 reflected some adjustments of payments made during February.

Other GA Activity. Local governmental units downstate receiving State GA funds reported 11,457 persons in 10,405 cases this February, an increase of 246 persons over January, and 3,754 persons, or 48.7 percent, over the February 1981 level. Payments in the most recent month totalled $1,965,500, with grants accounting for $1,343,200, or $117.24 per person, and medical bills, $622,300. These expenditures included some local as well as State funds. Another 19,184 persons in 9,362 cases were aided through GA non-receiving units during February 1982. Outlays, entirely from local funds, were $1,134,500, included $866,500 in grants and $268,000 spent for medical care. All non-receiving units data were partly estimated.

Refugee Resettlement. Last month's reduction of 31 persons in the grant component of the Refugee Resettlement program was followed by another in March, of 69, which yielded a total of 9,432 persons in 3,243 cases. The medical-only component increased 15 persons in the latest period, to 278 in 87 cases.

Cuban Phasedown and Cuban/Haitian Programs. The Cuban Phasedown grant component declined 8 persons between February and March, to 121 persons in 84 cases, a record low since its implementation. There have been two single-person medical-only cases in each of the last four months.

The Cuban-Haitian grant component fell 66 persons between January and February, and another 117 this month, to a current level of 1,454 persons in 1,186 cases. A one-person medical-only case was included this month, the first since last October.

Food Stamp Program. A record 1,085,400 persons, up 24,420 from a month earlier and more than 20,000 above the March 1981 peak, resided in households receiving Food Stamps this March. The regular roll consisted of 954,600 persons in 367,748 households, or 10,014 persons more than in February. ATP Documents mailed them, along with Food Stamps received through Direct Delivery in certain counties were valued at $41,606,800, averaging $113.14 per household and $43.59 per Household member. In addition, approximately 130,800 persons received locally-issued ATP Documents or centrally-issued Food Stamps (other than regular roll) in March. These were worth about $5,009,200, or $38.30 per capita.

The Department's Direct Mail Issuance Pilot Project, formerly in effect only in Region 10 (Marion), has been expanded this month to Region 7 (Springfield), with the exception of Sangamon County, and to Region 9 (East St. Louis), with the exception of Madison and St. Clair counties.

Applications -- All Programs. An upsurge in application receipts of 9,490 over the February level produced a record-breaking March count of 53,863; the previous peak was 48,635, received in December 1981. Medical-only applications played a major role in this month's advance, with the Medical Assistance--No Grant number rising 3,431 to 14,714, and Aid to the Medically Indigent applications up 1,857, to 8,290. Recent totals among the grant programs and changes from a month earlier include AFDC, 14,807, up 1,565; GA-Chicago, 13,128, up 1,904; Disability Assistance, 2,681, up 669; Old Age Assistance, 237, up 68; and Blind Assistance, 6, down 4.

AFDC Applications. The 14,807 AFDC applications taken in March represented an increase of 1,565 from a month earlier, and the largest number since last September. Basic sector receipts rose 1,790 between February and March, totalling 11,443 in the latter month. Those for the unemployed sector fell 225, to 3,364, their lowest number since November 1981. Denials comprised 39.7 percent of March processing activity, 34.8 percent of basic sector applications and 53.7 percent of AFDC-U applications processed. The AFDC-combined pending count fell from 8,734 at the end of February to 7,605 as of March 31; the latest number was 49.4 percent of the monthly processing pace.

AFDC Openings and Closings. Almost three out of ten AFDC openings now reflect the fact that the family has been living below agency standards, at 29.1 percent of the March total compared to 22.0 percent opened after loss of employment; 14.4 percent reflected a parent leaving home; 14.0 percent were due to loss of unemployment benefits; and 20.5 percent, all other reasons. Openings tabulated numbered 7,837.

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Receipt of employment or increased budgeted earnings accounted for 15.7 percent of March closings, followed by whereabouts unknown, 11.9; non-cooperation with redetermination requirements, 11.0; no longer eligible for earned income exemption, 10.4; requested cancellation and loss of legal residence, 8.9 each; receipt of income from State or local government, 7.3; no eligible child, 6.3; refusal of earned income verification, 2.1; step-parent's liability sufficient, 2.9; step-parent's income verification, 0.8; family income exceeds 150% of standard, 1.4; and miscellaneous reasons, 12.4 percent. Closings for which reasons were available totalled 7,724.

Prepared by:

Bureau of Research & Analysis

April 26, 1982